





STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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August 26, 2006

TO: IAC Members and Designees

FROM: Laura E. Johnson, Director 

PREPARED BY: Marguerite Austin, Manager 
Recreation & Habitat Section, Project Services Division

SUBJECT: Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
Funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2007
Notebook Item #11

SUMMARY

Three Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) projects were reviewed for federal fiscal year 2007 funding consideration.¹ The requests total more than \$1.2 million. At the September IAC meeting, the Board will be asked to approve funding for projects recommended by IAC staff and the LWCF Advisory Committee.

EVALUATIONS

On July 25, 2006, members of the LWCF Advisory Committee met in Olympia to evaluate projects submitted this year. The LWCF Advisory Committee utilized adopted evaluation criteria designed to measure how well a project meets state priorities and local community needs. A summary of the evaluation criteria is provided along with Table 1, *LWCF Program Ranked List of Projects and Fund Recommendation*.

The LWCF Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from municipal governments, state agencies, and citizens-at-large with expertise in park and recreation resource management. The ten members who served as evaluators this year included the following:

¹ These are within the State's 2007 fiscal year period.



Name	City	Agency/Organization	Position
Arvilla Ohlde	Belfair		Citizen at Large
Connie Waddington	Bainbridge Island	Bainbridge Island Land Trust	Citizen at Large
Fernne Rosenblatt	Seattle & Okanogan	Okanogan Valley Land Council	Citizen at Large
Peggy Panisko	West Richland	West Richland Planning Board	Citizen at Large
Jeroen Kok	Vancouver	Vancouver-Clark County Parks	Local Agency
Leslie Betlatch	Renton	Renton Parks and Recreation	Local Agency
Nancy Craig	Ephrata	Grant County Public Utilities	Local Agency
Bill Koss	Olympia	State Parks and Recreation	State Agency
Michael O'Malley	Olympia	Department of Fish and Wildlife	State Agency
Pene Speaks	Olympia	Department of Natural Resources	State Agency

LWCF PROGRAM POLICIES

The federal LWCF Program provides matching grants to states to assist in preserving and developing quality outdoor recreation resources for present and future generations.

A prerequisite for a state's participation in this program is federal approval of a state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. *An Assessment of Outdoor Recreation in Washington State: 2002-2006*, was adopted by IAC's Board in September 2002. The plan also set priorities used in the formation of LWCF policies and evaluation criteria adopted by the Board in IAC Manual #15, *Land and Water Conservation Fund Program: Policies and Project Selection*. As a reminder:

- State agencies, municipal governments, and Native American Tribes may apply.
- Applicants must establish planning eligibility.
- Acquisition, development, and renovation projects are eligible.
- The minimum fund request is \$25,000 with a maximum request of \$500,000.
- A minimum fifty percent non-federal matching share is required.

Before a project agreement is issued, the National Park Service also requires applicants to address any outstanding conversions or other non-compliance issues, have in hand any required Army Corps of Engineers permit, complete required environmental and public reviews of the project, and establish adequate control and tenure of property to be developed.

LWCF ALLOCATION AND ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Congressional LWCF apportionment to the State of Washington for federal fiscal year 2007 is currently unknown. Washington State received approximately \$500,000 in federal fiscal year 2006 funds. It appears that the stateside funding for LWCF projects may be minimal or non-existent for 2007 but, in case of funds, we will have a list to work with.

POST EVALUATION CONFERENCE

On August 16, IAC staff conducted a post evaluation conference with the LWCF Advisory Committee. The Committee was asked to review the results of the evaluation and project rankings, provide analysis of the results, and provide feedback about the process, projects, and evaluation criteria. Committee members were disappointed with the number of applications submitted, but in light of the estimated funds available understood why more applicants choose to apply for grants in other IAC programs.

After reviewing and evaluating the three projects submitted this year, the Committee recommended the following:

1. Make no changes to the minimum or maximum request limits at this time. The reluctance to recommend reducing the maximum request stems from acknowledgement of the higher costs of acquiring and developing property and the additional federal requirements and restrictions placed on LWCF projects. The \$500,000 maximum makes this program more attractive to some applicants.
2. Continue holding a separate grant round for the LWCF program. Do not fold into the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program where it would have a tendency to lose its identity.
3. Approve the list of projects so if funds do become available we can get these projects underway as quickly as possible.

Finally, the Advisory Committee hopes to see the LWCF Program recover and funding increased for federal fiscal year 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

IAC staff recommends approval of the ranked list of projects and request delegation of authority to the Director to submit these projects to the National Park Service for final funding upon receipt of the federal apportionment.

Staff has provided Resolution #2006-34 for Board consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution 2006-34, *Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Fiscal Year 2007*
- Table 1 - *LWCF Program, Federal Fiscal Year 2007 (2006-34)*
- State Map of Ranked Projects
- LWCF Evaluation Criteria Summary
- LWCF Evaluation Scoring Summary
- LWCF Project Synopses in Ranked Order with Congressional Districts

RESOLUTION #2006-34

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
Projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Funding
(State Fiscal Year 2007)**

WHEREAS, three Land and Water Conservation Fund projects that meet program requirements as stipulated in statute, administrative rule, and policy were submitted for funding consideration, and

WHEREAS, the approved and adopted Open Project Selection Process and criteria were used to assess these three projects, and

WHEREAS, the LWCF Advisory Committee evaluated these projects in an open public meeting, and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington may receive federal appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that IAC hereby approves the ranking and funding recommendation as depicted in Table 1 –*Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Fiscal Year 2007* (State Fiscal Year 2007), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director be authorized to submit application materials to the National Park Service and execute any and all project agreements and amendments necessary to facilitate prompt project implementation upon notification of the federal apportionment for this program.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: September 22, 2006



Resolution: 2006-34

Table 1
Land & Water Conservation Fund
State Fiscal Year 2007, Federal Fiscal Year 2007

Rank	Score Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	IAC Amt	Sponsor Amt	Total Amt	Staff Recommends	Cum Amt
1 of 3	37.700 06-1794D	Blueberry Park Development	Bremerton City of	201,510	201,510	403,020	201,510	201,510
2 of 3	36.100 06-2004A	Redmond Spur Trail	King County of	500,000	3,500,000	4,000,000	500,000	701,510
3 of 3	36.000 06-1562A	Discovery Park - Capethart Inholding Acq	Seattle City of	500,000	10,600,000	11,100,000	500,000	1,201,510
				1,201,510	14,301,510			

Date Prepared: 09/05/06

OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

Evaluation Criteria

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a federally funded grant program administered by the IAC to assist in preserving and developing public outdoor recreation lands and facilities for the benefit of all citizens. (LWCF Act of 1965, Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat 897)

LWCF - CRITERIA ANALYSIS						
Score	#	Title	A/D/R*	Score (& Multiplier)	Maximum Points	Focus
Team	1	Need	All	0-5 (x 3)	15	SCORP
Team	2	Consistency with SCORP	All	0-5 (x 2)	10	SCORP
Team	3	Individual Active Participation	All	0-5 (x 2)	10	LWCF
Team	4	Acquisition	A	0-5	5	SCORP
Team	5	Stewardship/Renovation	R	0-5	5	SCORP
Team	6	Development Quality	D	0-5	5	SCORP
Team	7	Project benefit	All	0-5	5	SCORP
IAC Staff	8	Previous LWCF Grants	All	0-1	1	SCORP
IAC Staff	9	Population Proximity	All	0-1	1	State
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: = 47						

KEY TO PRECEEDING TABLE

- Team = Criterion scored by the evaluation team
- IAC Staff = Criterion scored by IAC staff
- A, D, R = Criterion applicable to Acquisition, Development, or Renovation projects
- LWCF = Criteria a priority for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
- SCORP = Criterion supported by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

Evaluation Criteria

TEAM SCORED

Question 1. Need. What is the need for the project?
(All proposals.)

Question 2. Consistency with the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). To what extent does the project address one or more LWCF priorities identified in SCORP?
(All proposals.)

Question 3. Individual Active Participation. How well does the proposed project provide opportunities for individual active participation in outdoor recreation? (All proposals.)

Question 4. Acquisition. Why purchase this particular property at this time?
(Acquisition projects only.)

Question 5. Stewardship. To what extent will the renovation project return a site or facility to its original use and capacity? How well will the project protect a previous public investment in an outdoor recreation site or facility?
(Renovation projects only.)

Question 6. Development. What is the quality of a proposed development?
(Development Projects only.)

Question 7. Project benefits. How does the project demonstrate measurable benefits that can be expected from the investment of LWCF?
(All proposals.)

SCORED BY IAC STAFF

8. Previous LWCF Grants. Has there been previous LWCF investment in the proposed project site or facility?
(All proposals.)

9. Population Proximity. Is the project site located in a populated area?
(All proposals.)



Evaluation Summary **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** **State Fiscal Year 2007, Federal Fiscal Year 2007**

Rank	Name/Sponsor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
		Need	Consistency with SCORP	Individ. Active Participation	Acquisition	Stewardship Renovation	Development Quality	Project Benefit	Previous LWCF Grant	Population Proximity	
1	Blueberry Park /Bremerto	13.200	7.000	7.600			3.900	4.000	1.000	1.000	37.700
2	Redmond Spur Tr/King Cou	10.800	8.200	8.400	4.000			3.700	0.000	1.000	36.100
3	Discovery Park /Seattle	11.100	7.400	7.600	4.700			4.200	0.000	1.000	36.000

Prepared: 09/05/2006

Land & Water Conservation Fund Program

Federal Fiscal Year 2007

Project Synopses



Land and Water Conservation Fund Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Projects, In Ranked Order

Bremerton City of Blueberry Park Development	\$201,510	\$201,510	\$403,020
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This 7-acre park (acquired with LWCF) in urban Bremerton has regional appeal and a reprieve in this busy area surrounded by transitional low-income neighborhoods, schools, and mixed use developments. The park has bus access with a direct connection to city bike routes and a segment of the regional county bicycle / pedestrian system plan. The addition of parking, restrooms, conifer and shade tree grove, playground, sheltered picnic area with tables, bike racks, and a drinking fountain, will facilitate more intensive use. Interpretive signs describing trees/wildlife/history along a meandering pedestrian pathway will encourage mobility and individual participation. Existing blueberry shrubs will be enhanced and have historical significance as a former patch.

WSDOT donated native trees in support of Kitsap Trees & Shoreline Association (KITSA) for wildlife habitat and shade areas in the park and along trails. Outreach and education activities on gardening/trees/plants/birds will engage neighbors, visitors, groups, and adjacent Armin-Jahr Elementary School. Kitsap Master Gardeners and Bremerton Urban Gardeners (BUGS) are actively involved and committed to long-term stewardship of community gardens. KITSA will help maintain trees & plants.

One garden, asphalt parking and trails will be ADA compliant; provide use/access to wheelchairs, transports, strollers, and tricycles used by younger park users though not adequate for bicycle use. This is the only park type of its kind for several miles and a welcome retreat in this underserved growing neighborhood. (06-1794D-FY07)

King County of Redmond Spur Trail	\$500,000	\$3,500,000	\$4,000,000
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The scope of this project is to acquire a 50' width of a 7-mile railroad corridor between Redmond and the Woodinville Tourist District. This is a unique one-time-only opportunity to add a major regional trail to the county system. This trail will be part of one of the longest abandoned railroad right-of-way in the country, a total of 40+ miles. It will link directly to the future main eastside trail corridor and the Tolt Pipeline, East Lake Sammamish and Sammamish River Trails that will allow further trail connection to Seattle, Renton, Kirkland, Bellevue and the Centennial Trail in Snohomish County.

This project will offer users a variety of experiences and destinations including Redmond Town Center, Willows Golf Course, Sixty Acres Park, the Sammamish Valley agricultural area and the Woodinville Tourist District with parks, restaurants, wineries and other attractions. (06-2004A-FY07)

Seattle City of	\$500,000	\$10,600,000	\$11,100,000
Discovery Park - Capehart Inholding Acq			

The scope of this project is to acquire a 23-acre parcel, the Capehart Housing area, in Discovery Park in order to restore it as a natural area in an urban setting thus expanding, enhancing and preserving Discovery Park for park purposes.

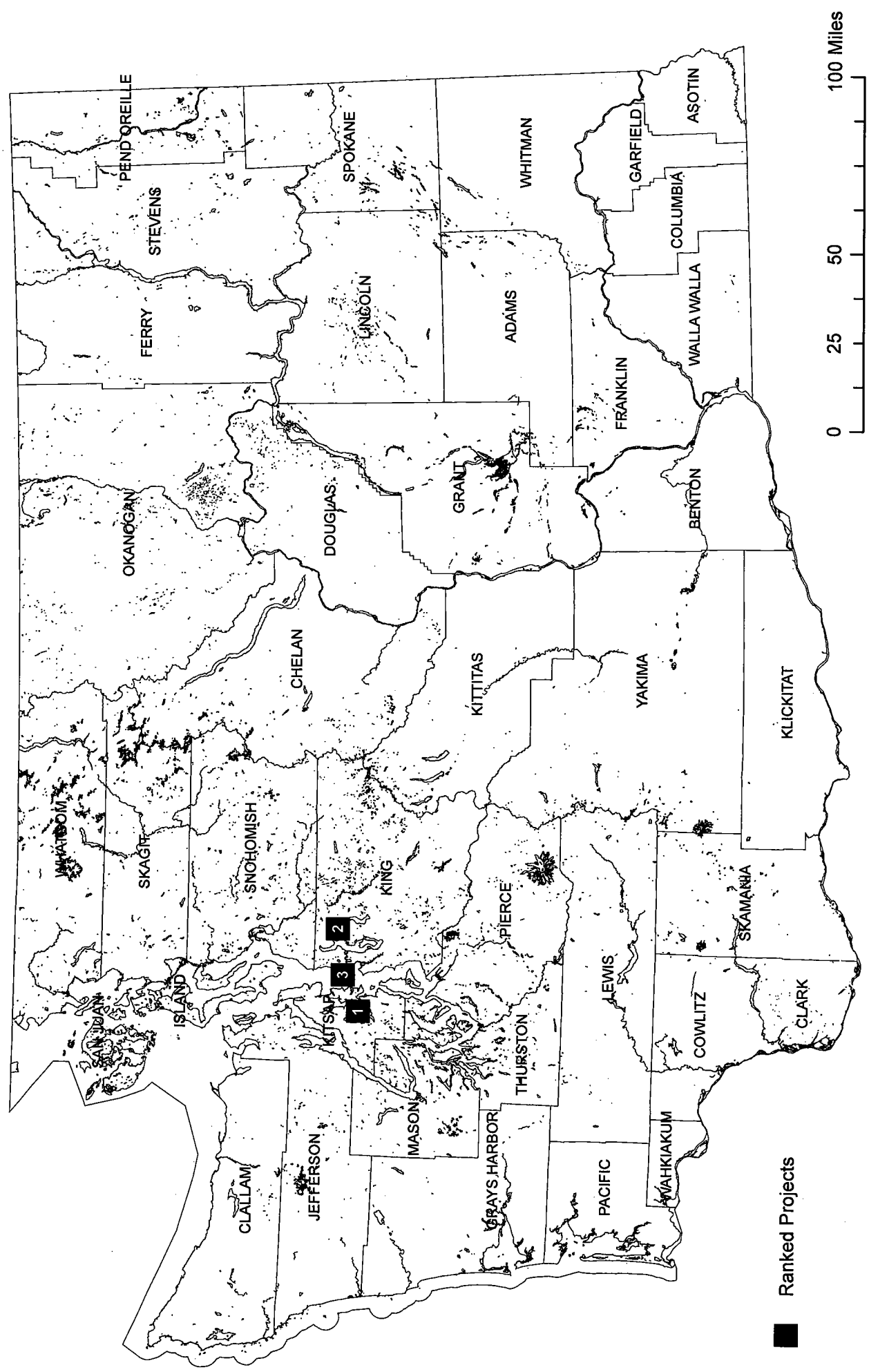
This 23-acre inholding is in 534-acre Discovery Park, Seattle's largest park. This regional park is Seattle's urban wilderness, an open space of quiet and tranquility, created in 1972 from the former Fort Lawton Army base. At that time, the federal government retained a number of developed parcels within the park and on its periphery. The Capehart site is the largest inholding and was later transferred to the Navy for continued military use of the housing.

In 2004, the Navy sold the property to a private developer, who plans to convert it into high-end market rate housing. The thought of a large housing complex in the midst of a major park touched off overwhelming public opposition. Seattle officials approached the developer, who agreed to hold off this development if the City purchases it from them. Public acquisition of the site and the addition of the Capehart property to the park will enhance and compliment the rest of the park by restoring the site to an open space and natural habitat area.

Seattle has committed to purchasing the property. Per an agreement with the developer, all structures on the site will be demolished and cleared at no cost to the City, as a condition of the sale. After acquisition, Seattle will remove roadways, pavements and utilities in a future development project. (06-1562A-FY07)



Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Fiscal Year 2007 Ranked Projects



September 2006